



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 10 Week Ending May 18, 2008

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Agricultural Summary

The weather still remained cool around the state this past week. Days suitable for work were 6.8. Livestock producers have begun moving their cattle and sheep to summer ranges.

Field Crops Summary

Box Elder reports that crops are about three weeks behind due to the cold spring. Producers are irrigating wheat and alfalfa. The weather has been dry the past week but there is enough moisture from previous weeks to germinate the corn that had been planted in the Bear River Valley. Several farmers mentioned that they were cutting 1st crop hay in mid-may last year, but they are still two or three weeks from cutting any hay this year. Dry land producers have been planting safflower. Dry land wheat looks good in some areas and poor in other areas. Cache County reports timely spring rains and a few days of warm weather have had a wonderful effect on Cache County crops. Alfalfa hay has doubled in height within the last 48 hours, farmers are working hard to finish planting their corn and last minute small grains crops. Young seedlings of alfalfa hay are looking great. Irrigation water has been turned into most of the irrigation canals now. Emery County reports cooler weather has kept the snow melt from putting water in the reservoirs. Warmer weather at the end of the week should get the water running. Irrigation of crops is in full swing with most crops looking pretty good. Beaver County reports farmers feel they are about 3 weeks behind on their alfalfa. Some fields are seeing large infestations of grasshoppers. Fields on the west side of Beaver County are seeing an infestation of Townsend Ground Squirrel. Alfalfa is growing very slowly because of the cold weather. Grain crops are doing well. Summit County reports that farmers are busy planting small grains and doing spring tillage work. Cool weather has delayed the growth of alfalfa, pastures, and rangeland.

Livestock Summary

Box Elder reports livestock producers are very concerned about the range conditions. The dry cold spring has made very little grass available for spring/summer grazing. In addition, black grass bugs are causing serious damage in the Howell, Plymouth, and Collinston areas. These bugs suck the chlorophyll out of the grass leaves which leave areas looking white with reduced production. Sheep producers have voiced concerns about losses during lambing due to the cold weather. Cache County reports Livestock producers have had to feed hay to their cows and sheep for more weeks than anticipated. Most, however, have been able to turn them out on pastures now that the grass has finally started to grow. Emery County reports rangeland conditions will likely begin to decline with warmer temperatures unless adequate moisture is received to keep the grasses growing. Most producers have brought livestock off of winter ranges and will within the next month go onto summer ranges.

Crop Progress for Week Ending May 18, 2008

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley Emerged	80	65	92	82
Oats Planted	88	83	91	87
Oats Emerged	49	44	67	64
Corn Planted	67	34	67	62
Apple Full Bloom	83	73	100	100
Peach Full Bloom	96	64	100	100
Pears Full Bloom	83	78	99	100

Crop & Livestock Condition for Week Ending May 18, 2008

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Range & Pasture	7	26	32	28	7
Winter Wheat	13	16	31	37	3

Livestock Percent for Week Ending May 18, 2008

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5-Year Average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Sheep Moved to Summer Range	20	0	37	26
Cattle Moved to Summer Range	19	0	39	28
Sheep Sheared on Farm	87	0	84	94
Sheep Sheared on Range	83	0	77	85
Ewes Lambled on Range	92	65	79	83

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 18, 2008

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	11	27	62	0
Subsoil	2	19	79	0
Stock water supplies	0	8	92	0